The Corporation of The City of London
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Landowners cooperation sought

Residents and business owners in London are being asked to cooperate in a study of our urban forest taking place this May through September. The study, which uses the Urban Forest Effects Model (UFORE), is a tool to estimate the total number of trees, both public and private, and evaluate their environmental benefits for the City.

The UFORE model is a predictive measurement tool developed by the United States Forest Service, and has been used by leading Canadian and American cities.

The City of London, in partnership with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA), has identified approximately 450 sample plots across the city, to which they are seeking access from landowners. Letters requesting permission for the UTRCA's two person crew – consisting of a forester and a field assistant – to enter on private property are being distributed to selected sample plot owners commencing the first week in May. They will be only be working outside and gathering only the data that is required for the analysis. Anyone receiving such a letter is encouraged to respond giving their permission using the postage paid envelope provided as soon as possible. As a thank you for participating, landowners will receive a summary of the information collected about their trees.

The UFORE study is an invaluable tool for both the UTRCA and the City of London. Its results will quantify the effects of our current urban forest structure and function, and be used to develop the urban forest strategy and programs for the next 20 years.

The UFORE model calculates the environmental and economical contribution of a city's urban forest. A city's urban forest provides oxygen, removes pollutants from the air, conserves energy, improves water quality, reduces run-off and impacts on UV radiation. For example, in Oakville, which is approximately half the size of London, their urban forest saves the equivalent of $1,100,000 per year in pollution control costs, provides $840,000 in residential energy savings, and filters more than four times the amount of pollutants created by all the vehicles licensed in the city.

Field work commences in May with sample plot on-site data collection. Analysis of the data will take place this fall, with the final report to be completed and presented in the spring of 2009.